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(54) **Three-dimensional printing techniques.**

(57) A process for making a component by (A) depositing a first layer of a powder material in a confined region and then (B) depositing a binder material to selected regions of the layer of powder material to produce a layer of bonded powder material at the selected regions. Such steps are repeated a selected number of times to produce successive layers of selected regions of bonded powder material (C) so as to form the desired component (D). The unbonded powder material is then removed (E). In some cases the component may be further processed as, for example, by heating it to further strengthen the bonding thereof.

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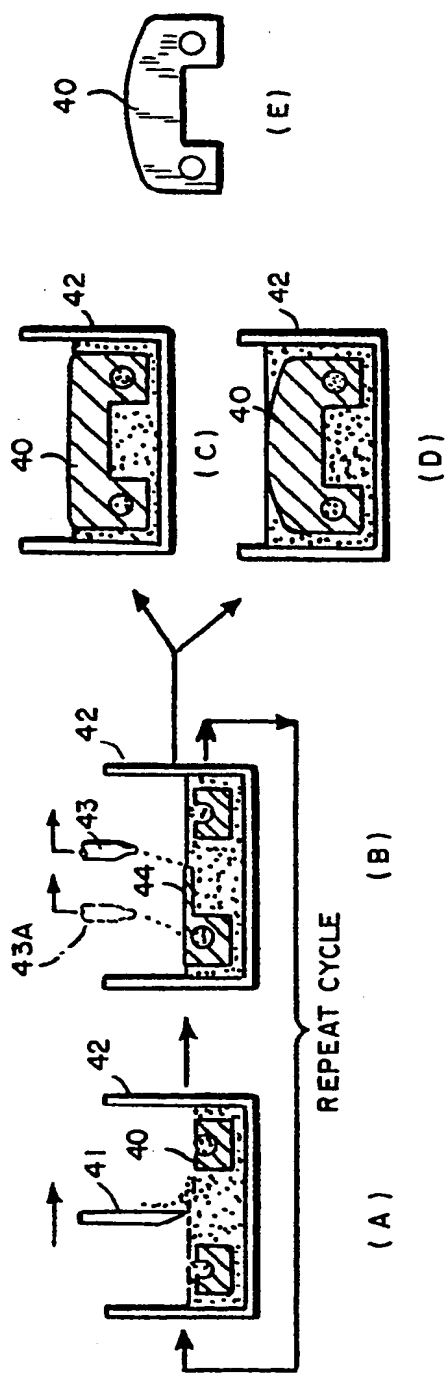


FIG.2



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 31 3220

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 5)
X, P	WO-A-9 003 893 (FEYGIN) * Figures 1, 2; claims 2, 15 *	1-28	B 29 C 39/42 B 29 C 67/24 B 29 C 67/02
A	US-A-4 863 538 (DECKARD) * Figure 1; claim 1 *	1-28	
A	DE-A-2 263 777 (CIRAUD) * Figure 2; claim 1 *	1-28	
A	US-A-4 247 508 (HOUSHOLDER) * Figure 1; claim 1 *	1-28	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 5)
			B 29 C B 01 J G 03 C G 09 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 04-09-1991	Examiner KIRSTEN K.R.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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